

Reality Unveiled brings Atlanta issues to campus

By Chris Russell
Online Editor

Students often talk about how being on a college campus—Tech's in particular—is like being inside a bubble that separates them from the comings and goings of the outside world. Normally, they are thinking of things like politics and news when it comes to this, but sometimes there's a bit more involved.

Reality Unveiled is a project, hosted by the Department of Housing and the Office of Diversity Programs, that aims to educate students on what else goes on outside "the Bubble."

While students inside the protection of a college campus don't generally have to worry about things like poverty, genocide and human trafficking, they are a part of daily life for millions of others people in the world.

"This event is about letting students and members of Tech know what's going on in the world.... How we, as part of a [college] campus, are separated from so much that is going on around us. This event helps us look around at the world, know what's going on and take actions to change what's going on," said Siddharth Shah, second-year IE and an RA in North Avenue Apartments.

While many students are vaguely aware that these things go on somewhere in the world, many don't realize how close to home some of them hit.

One fact that was strongly emphasized during the event was that Atlanta is the number one city in the United States for human trafficking, particularly of a sexual nature. The ease of transport into and out of the city makes it popular with sex tourists, with some flying in only to fly out again immediately after being serviced.

The event itself was set up in an unused hall on the first floor of North Avenue East. Two apartments were modified so each contained a handful of exhibits.

The first contained exhibits on poverty, immigration, genocide and human trafficking and the second included homophobia, sexism, racism, substance abuse and hope for change.

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Photo by Jarrett Skov / Student Publications

Reality Unveiled featured exhibits in North Ave. on taboo political topics.



Illustration by Kelvin Kuo

By Andrew Nelson
Staff Writer

With about 45 cultural student organizations on campus, one of the best ways for students to explore these different cultures is Tech's annual CultureFest—a week-long schedule of activities sponsored by Culture Tech and AIESEC, featuring activities by eleven student organizations.

Culture Tech has hosted this event since 1985, stemming from the Annual International Festival, and attracts at least 500 students to each event.

This year, there were over 2,000 students taking part in the four events throughout the week: the International Food Festival, Language Lunch, International Film Series and Night Market.

The International Food Festival was Monday's main attraction. The line of ethnic foods, cooked and served by their respective student associations for \$5 per person, yielded a completely packed-to-go tray by the end of the line.

The Global Village, hosted by AIESEC, provided booths for student organizations to set up informational centers and, of

course, more food and drinks for their club and culture.

At the Global Village, students could also use "passports"—cards signed by each student organization upon interacting with their booths—to score a free t-shirt and gelato.

"I went to the [International Food Festival Fair and Global Village], and all the booths were fun and entertaining," said Michael Wong, first-year EE, "I really liked the Haitian and Chinese booths."

On Monday evening, Fourth Street Apartments hosted an International Coffee

Hour, where students could practice language skills and learn about the country of Turkey and its culture over Turkish coffee.

Starting Tuesday morning, the language events continued with students from the Language Institute and student organizations hosting the Language Lunch, a new event this year. Students could visit a kiosk on Skiles Walkway and learn conversational basics of different languages.

"I went to the International Food Festival and the

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Students go All in for Haiti relief

By Kate Comstock
Focus Editor

On the night of Monday, April 4, a group of students met in the student center and attended a gambling party. No, this was not an illegal gambling event on campus, it was a philanthropy event that benefitted Haitian relief efforts.

The event, named "All in for Haiti," was organized by Sigma Beta Rho, a national fraternity that has a chapter at Tech. Although none of the members in the Tech chapter were directly affected by the

earthquake in Haiti, they do have national members that have suffered from the disaster. The fraternity wanted to sponsor an event that would let people enjoy themselves while giving to a good cause.

"Our biggest goal was to raise awareness for different issues around the world and we wanted to focus on the issue in Haiti," said Anirudha Midododdi, a co-chair of philanthropy for Sigma Beta Rho and a second-year IE.

The event allowed students to enjoy a night playing



Photo by Jarrett Skov / Student Publications

Sigma Beta Rho hosted a casino night that allowed students to play casino games and give to Haitian relief efforts.

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blackjack, poker, craps and roulette while savoring free food and watching the NCAA basketball tournament. Sigma Beta Rho also gave out T-shirts to those that came out to the event.

To help contribute to the relief efforts, participants were asked to donate \$5. With approximately 100 people participating, the fraternity was able to raise over \$500.

All proceeds from the benefit will go to the SOS Children's Villages International—an international organization that provides a loving and safe environment for orphaned or abandoned children. UNICEF estimates that 20,000 were lost from their families from the earthquake that occurred Jan. 12.

Before the earthquake, it was estimated that approximately 300,000 orphans existed in Haiti.

"We decided this would be a good way to get people to come out to raise awareness and raise money," said Jason Bapna, a co-chair of philanthropy for Sigma Beta Rho and first-year IE.

Sigma Beta Rho received help from the Institute of Industrial Engineers in organizing the event and Phi Kappa Tau contributed by providing members that acted as dealers for the games. The Tech for Haiti organization also provided support by helping to market in the weeks before the event around campus.

The event was sponsored with help from the Tech Student Foundation, AT&T, CCP Events and Walmart. CCP Events helped with the logistics of the event and brought the equipment used to facilitate the games. Walmart also helped support the event by donating food.

In the past few months there

have been several events that were organized by Tech students to aid in Haitian relief. On Thurs. Jan. 14 the Caribbean Student Association held a candle light vigil in honor of the earthquake victims. A benefit concert, GT Jam for Haiti, was held on Sat., March, 13 and included several different local bands and comedian performances. The Angels for Haiti organization has also been taking donations throughout the last three months. Last week, on April, 2, GT-Vibha, the Society of Step and Youth Outreach sponsored a program called, "REVIVAL: Haiti Mon Amour," where all proceeds from a salsa dancing performance went to Haitian relief efforts.

Sigma Beta Rho hopes to continue the casino themed event annually in an effort to try and bring awareness to other humanitarian issues around the world.



Photo by Jarrett Skov/ Student Publications

Games at "All in for Haiti" included blackjack, poker, roulette and craps. Students also participated in raffles during the night.

"ROCK 'N' ROLL FANS OF EVERY GENDER AND GENERATION WILL IDENTIFY WITH THIS."
-A.O. Scott, THE NEW YORK TIMES

"THIS IS AN ANTHEM TO THOSE YOUNG WOMEN WHO WOULDN'T TAKE NO FOR AN ANSWER."
-Thelma Adams, US WEEKLY

"STEWART AND FANNING HAVE NEVER BEEN STRONGER."
-Michael Phillips, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"THE RUNAWAYS' GETS EVERYTHING RIGHT."
-Mick LaSalle, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

"I LOVE ROCK 'N' ROLL AND THIS MOVIE!"
-Jan Wahl, KCBS AM/FM, SAN FRANCISCO

"SEE IT!"
-A.O. Scott and Michael Phillips, AT THE MOVIES

KRISTEN STEWART as Joan Jett
DAKOTA FANNING as Cherie Currie

THE RUNAWAYS

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Culture from page 11

Language Lunch. It was a great experience. It's always nice trying different types of foods and discovering that you like them, like Korean bulgogi or Thai iced tea," said Pamela Chi, first-year BME, "The language lunch was really fun, even though I couldn't pronounce any of the phrases right, because the people were really enthusiastic."

From Tuesday to Friday starting at 6:30 p.m., the Student Center Theater and the Student Success Center's Clary Theater hosted the International Film Series. Along with the movies shown there was a post-screening discussion on the cultural and political issues in each film with professors as special guests. The films were selected to highlight a particular culture and the importance of the integration of language; those films were *J.S.A.: Joint Security Area*, *Good Bye Lenin!*, *Lagaan* and *Ten Canoes*.

The evenings as a whole were intended to explore cultures at Tech and the surrounding community "in an effort to highlight the human characteristics that we all share," according to Culture Tech's website.

The final event will be the Night Market, sponsored by the Taiwanese-American Student Association on Friday (April 9) night. The night will host live music and dance performances by student associations in the Biotech Quad from 7 p.m.- till 10 p.m.

As the decades-long campus tradition is one of Tech's biggest student-organized events, CultureFest was heavily advertised, with help from several of Tech's academic and staff departments' advertising of the event on their main pages.

Student organizations and institute departments such as the Language Institute—who also helped with the Language

Lunch—recruited and contributed volunteer support to aid in logistics for the larger events in the center of campus.

One issue this year was funding. SGA has been a major funding source for events, considering the impact CultureFest has on campus; however, SGA has recently withdrawn some funding for the event.

"Unfortunately, Culture Tech was not given all the funding [by SGA] that was asked for, despite the Food Fest being a Tech tradition for the last 27 years. Culture Tech cannot manage on a budget so low and this will negatively impact our events in the future," Ajeya Karajikar, fourth-year ME and president of Culture Tech, said, "This is one of the few events that caters to international students and has always had a positive impact on campus by promoting diversity."

Culture Tech is sponsored by the Office of International Education (OIE), which advocates international curriculum and students studying abroad during their time at Tech. Culture Tech works closely with them during CultureFest week.

"There are typically two or three OIE advisors at any given time, helping out during the Food Fair event so that there is a smooth flow of people sampling the international cuisines while the students are serving what they have proudly prepared," said Gwen Fernandes, International Student Advisor and faculty advisor of Culture Tech.

OIE and Fernandes also help new officers in Culture Tech with preparation for Culture Fest and give general guidance on contacts and planning for the various events.

Culture Tech is a student organization and meets in the Student Center; email gtculturetech@gmail.com to attend meetings or join.

CommLab offers new student resource

By Malvika Kapoor
Contributing Writer

The academic buzz around campus is of the new CommLab, also called the Communication Center. Professors in the Literature Communications and Culture (LCC) department, such as Jennifer Parrott, Marion L. Britain Postdoctoral Fellow, are promoting this newest addition to the Tech's vast array of facilities.

"Many schools have writing centers," said Parrott, "and we are excited that Georgia Tech is now offering a dedicated Writing and Communication's center to its students."

According to its website, www.lcc.gatech.edu/writingcomm/commcenter/, the CommLab's mission is to promote, "excellence in WOVEN communication—written, oral, visual, electronic and nonverbal—in ways that enable members of the Georgia Tech community to have greater success in their academic and workplace careers as well as in their civic and community lives."

Tech's new CommLab had its pilot version open on Wed., March 10. The pilot version, temporarily at D.M. Smith room 319, offers services such as multimodal project help for students in English 1101 and 1102, as well as help on resumes and applications. It is available to all undergraduate students at Tech who are willing to take advantage of such a resource.

However, some elements were put in place to help students make the most of this resource.

"We are not simply a proof-reading service, and we don't guarantee A's" said Parrott, "but the great part is that you get to direct what you want to work on in your essay."

The CommLab provides tutoring in all the areas of WOVEN



Photo by Jarrett Skov/ Student Publications

The CommLab is open in room 319 of D.M. Smith, it offers services to students looking for help with many different kinds of media.

communication, such as posters, websites, papers, presentations, resumes and even graduate school applications. This includes an e-tutoring feature, which students can take advantage of after an initial face-to-face meeting. Students can have one face-to-face meeting and one electronic meeting per assignment, be it oral, visual or

written.

The CommLab is a consulting service for planning any complex communication project, whether it is in groups or in teams, and can help students and group members in developing an argument.

Also, the CommLab offers

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One room at the event had a map where several of the areas where sex trafficking is most often practiced were marked. One of the most common was the intersection of Peachtree and North Ave. (two blocks away from the North Ave. Apartments) and another was in the middle of Buckhead.

The rooms for poverty and immigration were made to mimic the environments the homeless and illegal immigrants find themselves in. Cramped spaces, trash littering the floor and a large jug acting as a communal bathroom painted a gritty picture of what life can be like.

Other rooms contained images representing the atrocities committed in various genocides, the drug-and-violence-filled lives of modern-day slaves and images demonstrating acts and themes of sexism across the world. Each of these was accompanied by a collection of facts, figures and quotes outlining the extent of problems like these.

Laptops and speakers were scattered about each of the rooms, each with something different playing on them. One screen showed scenes from the Rwandan genocide, another showed propaganda used to trick young children into slavery and yet another showed videos of Martin Luther King Jr.'s March on Washington.

Audio also played a big role in the event, through ambient noise in several rooms and, most poignantly, in anti-gay propaganda that was played in the room dedi-

cated to the problem of homophobia.

At the end of the hall, counselors from the Counseling Center talked with students about what they saw and how they could fight issues like these.

Stephanie Ray, Associate Dean of Students and Director of the Office of Diversity Programs, was present at the event as well.

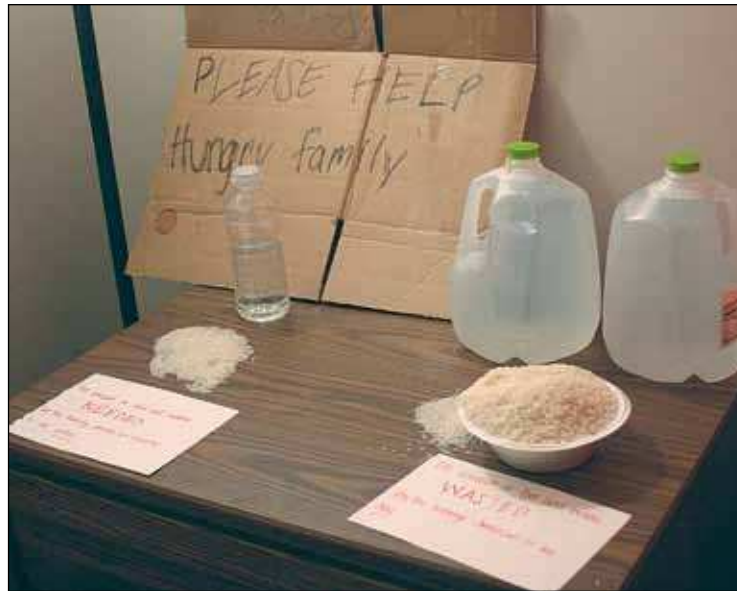
When asked how she got involved, she said, "Last year I worked with Georgia State on their Tunnel of Oppression to get ideas for something similar for GT. I didn't work with Reality Unveiled last year, so this year when the Department of Housing asked if I would help support their endeavors, I was more than happy to do so."

Ray said GSU's tunnel was a joint effort between GSU, Tech, Morehouse and Agnes Scott.

Ray said, "Last year, about 500 students went through their Tunnel of Oppression... Each of us had a room. Georgia Tech's room was the tunnel of slurs, the very first room you entered. On the first day, I worked with Parking and Transportation, who provided a shuttle [to] GSU all that day [and] at least 100 GT folk took the shuttle that day."

Ray said one subject in particular sticks out to her from the exhibit.

"Human trafficking is the one that gets to me, simply because it's a major problem here in Atlanta. We're one of the cities with the most human trafficking. It's painful that this happens in your city," said Ray.



Photos by Jarrett Skov/ Student Publications

The room that with the homeless exhibit is shown above, the room included a shelter that replicated homeless housing.

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help at any stage of the project, whether it is planning, rewriting, reviewing, or formatting.

When asking for help on a specific assignment, the CommLab asks that students bring a copy of the assignment sheet and the most recent draft of the document or project. This helps both the tutor and the student understand the requirements of the project, and gives both of them a base from which to work off of.

There are also online features. The Facebook page of the CommLab will feature weekly writing tips to help students become better writers.

The Facebook page, along with the LCC page for the CommLab, features updates on operating hours, contact information, instructions to make an appointment and links for help with communication strategies.

In the future, however, the CommLab hopes to offer even more to its students. The CommLab is scheduled for completion in 2011-2012.

The lab will have a permanent house on the fourth floor of the Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons (CULC), the new building being built next to the library and is slated to open in the fall of 2011.

In addition to the peer and professional tutoring services at the moment, there will be spaces for studying, discussing and practicing writing and communication skills, as well as more online and hotline resources.

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